

ment of Concordia College at Moorhead in 1891 was under way he became one of the incorporators of that institution and was elected first treasurer of the same. In the meantime Mr. Rasmusson had continued his activities in the real-estate line and for years was regarded as one of the best judges of realty in the Red River valley, carrying on quite extensive operations in that line both at Moorhead and at Winnipeg. In 1903 he became one of the incorporators of the First State Bank of Moorhead. Of late years, however, he has been living practically retired from business cares, "taking things easy" in his declining years.

Mr. Rasmusson has been twice married. On March 24, 1861, in his native Norway, just a few days before he and his bride took their departure for this country, he was united in marriage to Liv Johnson, who also was born in Norway, June 24, 1842, and whose parents died when she was an infant. To that union were born six children, namely: John, who is engaged in the hardware business at Crookston, this state; Anna, wife of O. D. Dahl, of Fargo; Julia, who died at Moorhead in August, 1915; Rudolph, who is living at Minneapolis; Dr. Frederick Rasmusson, of Oliver county, North Dakota, and Nora, wife of Marvin Fullerton, of Fargo. The mother of these children died in 1909 and in 1911, during a visit back to his old home in Norway, Mr. Rasmusson was married in that country to Marie Christianson, who was born in Norway on December 18, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Rasmusson have a very pleasant home at Moorhead and Mr. Rasmusson is also the owner of some valuable business houses on Front street.

S. O. SOLUM.

S. O. Solum, cashier of the First National Bank of Barnesville, president of the mercantile firm of Norby, Solum & Company (incorporated), city treasurer of Barnesville and for years actively identified with the commercial and other interests of that city, one of the best-known bankers and merchants in this section, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Clay county since he was three years of age, and may thus very properly be accounted as one of the real "old settlers" of this part of the Red River country. He was born on a pioneer farm in Fillmore county on June 18, 1869, son of Ole H. and Karie (Stadum) Solum, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who became pioneers of Clay county in 1872 and here spent their last days.

Ole H. Solum was born and reared in Norway, as was his wife. In 1868, with the two children, Hans and Andrew, born to them in their native land, they came to the United States and proceeded on out to Minnesota, settling in Fillmore county, where they remained for four years. At the end of that time, in 1872, they came up into the Red River valley with their family, driving through with a covered wagon and a team of oxen, and located in Clay county, which had just been erected into a civic unit that year. Upon his arrival here, Ole H. Solum homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Tansem township and there established his home. At that time, Indians still were numerous hereabout and there was not another settler between the Solum place and Glyndon. During the first summer of his residence here, Mr. Solum eked out his slender means of subsistence by working as a freighter to Ft. Abercrombie. Though he started with practically nothing save his homestead right, he was a good farmer and an excellent manager and presently began to see his way clear to the development of a fine piece of farm property. As he prospered in his affairs, he gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of an excellent farm of three hundred and forty acres. He and his wife were earnest workers in the church and were among the organizers of the First North Emanuel church. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being: Hans, Andrew, Lars (who died at the age of eleven years), Martin, Christine (who died at the age of fourteen), and Peter.

As noted above, S. O. Solum was but three years of age when his parents settled in Clay county and he grew up on the homestead farm in Tansem township, thoroughly familiar with pioneer conditions thereabout. Upon completing the course in the local schools, he entered Willmar Seminary and was in attendance at that institution for the better part of two terms, after which, in 1890, then being twenty-one years of age, he began working in a lumber yard at Barnesville. In 1892 he accepted the position as bookkeeper in the Barnesville State Bank, and not long after that bank was rechartered as the First National Bank of Barnes in 1895 he was made assistant cashier of the same and, in 1910, was elected cashier, which position he still occupies, one of the best-known bankers in this part of the state. In addition to his banking interests Mr. Solum has other business interests in Barnesville and is the president of the mercantile firm of Norby, Solum & Company (incorporated). For the past sixteen years and more, he has served as treasurer of the city of Barnesville and has in other ways given of his time and his energies to the public service.

In the year 1893 S. O. Solum was united in marriage to Christine Austin, daughter of John and Bertha Austin, of Crawford county, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Solum are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take a proper part in church work, as well as in the general social and cultural activities of their home community.

CHARLES FOSSAY.

There is no more persevering tiller of the soil in Kragnes township, Clay county, than Charles Fossay, who was born in Norway in 1853. He is a son of Ole E. and Olia F. Fossay, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and made their home until immigrating to America in 1866, locating in Mitchell county, Iowa, where the father bought one hundred and twenty acres of land, for which he paid five dollars an acre. The same land is now worth one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre. Here they engaged in farming, developing raw land by hard work. The father's death occurred there in 1907 at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. The mother died some three years later at the age of eighty-four. To these parents the following children were born: Eberhart, who was killed by a bull in 1912 in North Dakota; Anton, who died in Mitchell county, Iowa; Charles, the subject of this sketch; Bertha, who is married and lives in Mitchell county, Iowa; Emma, who is married and makes her home in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Minnie, who died near Davenport, North Dakota; Oliva, who was married and who died in Foster county, North Dakota, in 1915; Oliver, who lives in McHenry county, North Dakota, and Mary, who died in Cass county, that state.

Charles Fossay was thirteen years old when his parents brought him to America. He received a common-school education and grew to manhood on the farm. Like all sons of pioneers he worked hard when a boy, helping his father develop the home farm. In 1877 he went to Fargo, North Dakota, and there operated a dray line for twelve years with very gratifying results. He then, in 1889, came to Clay county and bought his present farm in Kragnes township. The farm originally consisted of four hundred acres, but Mr. Fossay later sold half of it and now owns the two hundred acres, which lie in sections 30 and 31. He made all the improvements on this land, including the erection of a modern and substantial set